

EPA WEEKLY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Week of September 23, 2013

Priorities

Announcements - Presidential Priorities

- State of the Union amplification
- Sequester
- Economy/Job creation

In early October, EPA expects to release a synthesis report on the *Importance of Water to the U.S. Economy* study. EPA intends the report to stimulate a conversation about water's importance to the U.S. economy, and to summarize information that public and private decision-makers can use to sustainably manage the nation's water resources. The report discusses EPA's review of the literature and practice on the importance of water to the U.S. economy, identifies key data gaps, and describes the implication of the study's findings for future research. EPA's study is not a new law, regulation, guidance or policy, and does not change any existing laws, regulations, guidance or policies.

- Gun violence
- Immigration
- Climate/Energy

On September 26, Joel Scheraga, EPA's Senior Advisor for Climate Adaptation, is expected to participate in the 22nd Annual Groundwater Symposium, which is hosted by the Maryland Department of the Environment. This annual event provides a forum for groundwater professionals and stakeholders from around the state to exchange information and promote the protection of Maryland's groundwater resources. The senior advisor is expecting to give a plenary presentation on "Anticipating and Preparing for Climate Change to Protect Water Resources." Open Press, Baltimore, MD.

During the week of September 23, Administrator McCarthy is scheduled to participate in the following events:

- On September 23, the Administrator is scheduled to attend the Christian Science Monitor Breakfast and deliver remarks and participate in Q&A session with approximately 25-30

reporters from national media organizations. The Administrator is expected to discuss carbon pollution standards for new power plants and the President's Climate Action Plan. Open Press, Washington DC. On September 24th the Administrator will meet with Dr. Dino Patti Djalal, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to the United States at EPA Headquarters. Closed Press, Washington, DC.

- On September 25, the Administrator is expected to travel to New York City to deliver remarks at the Clinton Global Initiative Annual Meeting. While in New York, the Administrator is also expected to meet with EPA Region 2 Administrator Judith Enck in a private meeting. The Administrator is expected to discuss carbon pollution standards for new power plants and the President's Climate Action Plan. Open Press, New York, NY.
- On September 26, the Administrator is expected to deliver keynote remarks at the University of Michigan Environmental Protection and Public Health Conference. While in Ann Arbor the Administrator will also meet with university students and tour the university to view their sustainability and environmental initiatives. The Administrator is expected to discuss carbon pollution standards for new power plants and the President's Climate Action Plan, with a particular focus on the public health. Open Press, Ann Arbor, MI.
- On September 27, the Administrator is expected to travel to Middleton, WI to deliver remarks at the annual meeting of Trout Unlimited, a conservation group. While there the Administrator will also meet with Trout Unlimited CEO and President Chris Wood. The Administrator is expected to discuss the President's Climate Action Plan and issues of resiliency. Open Press, Middleton, WI.

As early as the week of September 23, EPA expects to propose amendments to the national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants (NESHAP) for flexible polyurethane foam production. This review of the standards, known as the risk and technology review (RTR), evaluates whether (1) new, improved or previously unidentified emission control approaches, practices or processes are now available; (2) additional emission reductions are warranted to protect health; and (3) additional changes are needed to assure that the rule is accurate and legally defensible. The proposed rule would codify the current industry practice and prohibit use of auxiliary blowing agents containing hazardous air pollutants. Since all existing facility emissions are currently below the proposed allowable levels, EPA does not expect this amendment to achieve additional emissions reductions. It would, however, assure that emissions do not increase above this protective lower limit.

On October 7, EPA expects to release its 2013 Green Infrastructure Strategy. Administrator McCarthy may make the announcement at the Water Environment Federation's Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference, the largest water utility conference in North America, which takes place October 5-9 in Chicago, IL. Through the strategy, the Agency will seek to increase the capacity of local communities and the federal government to evaluate the role and benefits of green infrastructure. The strategy is organized around five major focus areas: (1) federal coordination, (2) Clean Water Act authority assistance, (3) research and information

exchange, (4) funding and financing, and (5) capacity building. With the announcement of the 2013 strategy, which builds on previous strategies from 2008 and 2011, EPA will also make known its latest round of technical assistance funding (\$335,000) and the release of a new series of technical assistance reports based on the efforts of the 17 communities that received green infrastructure technical assistance funding in 2012. Lastly, EPA will release case studies on 13 communities that have analyzed the economic benefits of green infrastructure, including an analysis of the cost savings of green infrastructure.

On October 7 – 11, Region 10’s Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit is scheduled to take place, including conversations about climate change. Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran, will speak about climate change and regional issues that pertain to Pacific Northwest Tribes. In addition, the following EPA officials are slated to attend: Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation Janet McCabe, Office of Environmental Justice Director Matthew Tejada, Associate Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice Lisa Garcia, and Luke Jones of the American Indian Environmental Office. Closed Press, Spokane, WA.

On October 16, Joel Scheraga, EPA’s Senior Advisor for Climate Adaptation, at the invitation of the Office of Air and Radiation, is scheduled to participate in the EPA Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC). The CAAAC is a senior-level policy committee established to advise the EPA on issues related to implementing the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Open Press, Washington, DC.

On October 17, Joel Scheraga, EPA’s Senior Advisor for Climate Adaptation, is scheduled to participate at the Association of Climate Change Officers’ Climate (ACCO) Strategies Forum. The Forum features a number of in-depth training boot camps, roundtable discussions, ACCO working group meetings, facilities tours and panel discussions. Open Press, Washington, DC.

In October, in coordination with the White House executive order on resiliency, EPA expects to release for public review and comment its draft Climate Change Adaptation Implementation Plans. These plans detail how each National Environmental Program Office and each EPA Regional Office will carry out the work called for in EPA’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan. (EPA is currently revising its Climate Adaptation Plan following a public comment period that closed April 9; the agency expects to issue the final Climate Change Adaptation Plan in early Fall). States and Tribes, in particular, have already expressed a strong interest in seeing the details that will be provided in EPA’s draft Implementation Plans about how the Program and Regional Offices will carry out the work called for in the Agency-wide Plan.

In October, in coordination with the White House executive order on resiliency, EPA expects to release the following guidebooks:

- October release of workbook designed for environmental professionals regarding risk-based plans for adapting to climate change. (Expected to be released approximately 1 week following executive order.) The workbook provides a data-driven systematic process for determining important climate risks and supports a participatory stakeholder

approach for building local capacity to understand and manage risk.

- Late October release of a guidebook offering local governments in the Washington, DC area policy options to consider when preparing for future climate risks while also meeting other environmental, economic, and social goals. The guidebook – titled *Using Smart Growth Strategies to Create Resilient Communities in the Washington, DC Region* – describes approaches that can be used in response to current and projected risks to the land use, transportation, water and buildings sectors. While developed for the DC region, the guidebook presents approaches that can be used in city, suburban or rural settings and in places with similar climate change projections. The guide was developed based on technical assistance EPA provided to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC), starting in fall 2010. EPA plans to make the guide available online and to promote it via the Smart Growth listserv and social media. (MWCOC recently released a complementary report that is based on lessons MWCOC learned from its work on climate adaptation, which included the EPA technical assistance. http://www.mwcog.org/store/item.asp?PUBLICATION_ID=460.)

- ACA Implementation

Announcements - Department/Agency Priorities

Principal Schedules

On September 22, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Jim Jones is scheduled to make remarks via video conference to CropLife America's Annual Meeting. CropLife America represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators, and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management. Closed Press, White Sulphur Springs, W.VA.

On September 23, Senior Advisor to the Administrator Cameron Davis is scheduled to participate in a press conference with Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY) to commemorate the kickoff of the final phase of contaminated sediment dredging in the Buffalo River Area of Concern (AOC). The \$43.2 million agreement funded under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative/Great Lakes Legacy Act, with non-federal matching funds from Honeywell and the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, will address 488,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment. This and a recent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging project, will result in more than 1 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment addressed in the AOC. The dredging will start in October and end by December 2014. Open Press, Buffalo, NY.

On September 23, EPA is scheduled to announce the 13th annual Green Power Leadership Awards at the Renewable Energy Markets conference. Twenty-one Green Power Partners and three suppliers will be honored for their achievements in advancing the nation's renewable electricity market across six award categories, including Green Power Partner of the Year. Open Press, Austin, TX.

On September 23, Assistant Administrator for International and Tribal Affairs Michelle DePass, along with staff from the Office of Water, is scheduled to meet with members of the Nuiqsut Tribe of Alaska. Closed Press, Washington, DC.

On September 23, Region 1 Administrator Curt Spalding is scheduled to speak at a brownfields press event with Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) and Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy (D-MA). The event, hosted by the City of Attleboro, celebrates the accomplishments of the Massachusetts Brownfields Support Team. EPA has invested \$700,000 of brownfields funding in the city – including a \$200,000 community wide assessment grant, a \$100,000 targeted brownfields assessment grant and two \$200,000 cleanup grants. Open Press, Attleboro, MA.

On September 23-25, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water Nancy Stoner is scheduled to co-chair the meeting of the Hypoxia Task Force. The Task Force will release an assessment of its progress, as well as a federal strategy for working on nutrient pollution issues in the Mississippi River Basin and Gulf of Mexico. Open Press, Minneapolis, MN.

On September 24-25, OEI's Acting Assistant Administrator Renee Wynn is scheduled to attend EPA's GIS Workgroup meeting. Closed Press, Kansas City, KS.

On September 24, Region 8 Administrator Shaun McGrath is scheduled to present remarks at a meeting of the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry's Energy and Environment Council. 30-35 members are expected to attend to discuss emerging issues. Closed Press, Denver, CO.

On September 24, Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River, is scheduled to attend the Bay Program's Principals' Staff Committee meeting. This is a periodic (usually quarterly) meeting of Cabinet level officials from the Chesapeake Bay states and other key stakeholders. The majority of the discussion for the meeting will focus on progress toward developing a renewed Chesapeake Bay Agreement. The current time frame for finalizing the Agreement is December 2013, but the timeline is likely to be revised to spring or summer of 2014. Open Press, Washington, DC.

On September 24, Region 1 Administrator Curt Spalding is scheduled to participate in kickoff luncheon for a Harvard Law School pilot partnership with the Region, in which EPA identifies a specific (and real-life) regulatory challenge and students craft creative solutions. The partnership is in conjunction with EPA's Next Generation Compliance initiative, which is being led by the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance in Washington, DC. Closed Press, Cambridge, MA.

On September 24, Region 2 Administrator Judith Enck is scheduled to speak at a press event announcing the Record of Decision for the Gowanus Canal Superfund site, along with Rep. Nydia Velasquez (D-NY). (The Record of Decision is a public document explaining cleanup

alternatives for a Superfund site.) Gowanus Canal is one of only two Superfund sites in New York City, and the City has challenged its listing on the National Priorities List, which is a listing of national priorities among known or threatened releases of hazardous substances. Open Press, Brooklyn, NY.

On September 24, Region 2 Administrator Judith Enck is scheduled to take part in a panel discussion on sustainability at a Nature Conservancy event. As a panelist, RA Enck will answer a variety of questions from the audience. Open Press, Westchester, NY.

On September 24, Region 3 Administrator Shawn Garvin is scheduled to participate in the Chesapeake Bay Program Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) Quarterly Meeting. The PSC advises the Bay Executive Council, which is made up of the EPA Administrator and signatory state governors. The main topic for discussion at the PSC meeting is the new Bay Agreement, which is targeted to be signed on December 12. Open Press, Washington, DC.

On September 24, Acting Assistant Administrator Janet McCabe is scheduled to attend the Fall Membership Meeting of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA), a national organization of state and local air pollution control officials who implement the Clean Air Act. She will answer questions during a session called "Face the Air Directors." Closed Press, Baltimore, MD.

On September 25, Senior Advisor to the Administrator Cameron Davis and Senior Agricultural Counselor Sarah Bittleman are expected to meet with USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Chief Jason Weller to discuss future work to address near-shore health under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Closed Press, Washington, DC.

On September 25, Region 1 Administrator Curt Spalding is scheduled to participate in the 2014 PPA leadership/joint evaluation meeting with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). Senior EPA leadership will also participate along with the MA DEP Commissioner. Closed press, Boston, MA.

On September 25, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Jim Jones is scheduled to give remarks about the worker protection standard at the 2013 Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs National Conference. AFOP is a non-profit organization that works with its membership to implement train-the-trainer pesticide safety programs. Open Press, Alexandria, VA.

On September 25, EPA General Counsel Avi Garbow is scheduled to speak with the American Petroleum Institute Law Committee to highlight EPA priorities. Closed Press, Washington, DC.

On September 25, Office of Air and Radiation Senior Counsel Joseph Goffman is expected to attend a workshop on the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from existing coal plants, under Clean Air Act 111d. The workshop is co-sponsored by the Bipartisan Policy Center's Energy

Project and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. Open Press, Washington, DC.

On September 25 – 27, EPA Region 6 is scheduled to host an Environmental Justice (EJ) Training Workshop, which intends to help community leaders better understand and respond to EJ challenges. Regional Administrator Ron Curry will discuss our recent commitments to work with state partners and industry on excess emissions issues impacting fence-line communities. Closed Press, New Orleans, LA.

On September 26, Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River, is scheduled to speak at EPA's Community Based Public-Private Partnerships Workshop, hosted by the Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Environmental Service. The workshop will provide training and discuss best practices on establishing public-private partnerships for affordable green stormwater management and community revitalization. Closed Press, Annapolis, MD.

On September 26, Office of Air and Radiation Senior Counsel Joseph Goffman is scheduled to speak at the bi-annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) on EPA's efforts, including stakeholder outreach, to develop Clean Air Act section 111(d) guidelines for existing power plants to address carbon dioxide emissions. Closed Press, Arlington, VA.

On September 26, Assistant Administrator for International and Tribal Affairs Michelle DePass is scheduled to participate in meetings surrounding the US-Mexico Border Philanthropy Partnership. The meeting serves as follow-up to the Border 2020 program launch. Closed Press, San Diego, CA.

On September 26, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Jim Jones is scheduled to participate in a session titled "Chemical Management Under CEPA and TSCA," at the American Cleaning Institute and Canadian Consumer Specialty Product Association 2013 Fall Meeting. The event is being hosted by U.S. and Canadian trade associations for companies that manufacture, market, process, package and distribute consumer, industrial and institutional specialty products. Closed Press, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, CA.

On September 26, Region 2 Administrator Judith Enck is scheduled speak about climate change, as part of an opening panel for the Go Green 2013 Conference at the City University of New York Graduate Center. Open Press, New York, NY.

On September 26, Region 8 Administrator Shaun McGrath is scheduled to address the meeting of the Water Utility Council of the American Water Works Association to describe aspects of the Administration's initiative on climate change, what it will mean for water, water quantity issues, and water policy generally from EPA's perspective. It will be an informal presentation with about 25 top utility executives from around the country. Closed Press, Denver, CO.

On September 26, Region 8 Administrator Shaun McGrath is scheduled to make remarks at a press event sponsored by the Alliance for a Sustainable Colorado (The Alliance). The Alliance is announcing its workspace transformation, followed by a reception and design showcase. The Mayor of Denver has also been invited. Open Press, Denver, CO.

On September 26, Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran is scheduled to meet with Trout Unlimited, a conservation organization, to discuss the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. Closed Press, Seattle, WA.

On September 26, Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran is scheduled to meet with Dr. David Fleming, head of Seattle-King County Public Health to discuss EPA's Lower Duwamish River Superfund cleanup activities and related public health issues. Closed Press, Seattle, WA.

On September 26, Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran is scheduled to meet with Admiral (ret.) Tom Barrett, president of the Alyeska Pipeline Company, for the annual update on environmental issues related to the Trans Alaska Pipeline. Alyeska maintains and operates the Pipeline. Closed Press, Seattle, WA.

On September 26 - 27, Regional Administrator Shaun McGrath is scheduled to present remarks and participate in the Region 8 State - EPA Environmental and Agricultural Directors' annual meeting to be held at the Region 8 Office conference center. Closed Press, Denver, CO.

On September 27, Senior Advisor to the Administrator Cameron Davis is expected to co-present with John Goss of the White House Council on Environmental Quality to the Alliance for Regional Development a case study on inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional cooperation to prevent Asian carp from becoming established in the Great Lakes. Open Press, Chicago, IL.

On September 27, Region 1 Administrator Curt Spalding is scheduled to participate in a resiliency discussion with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and HUD's Rhode Island office. Region 1 has reached out to HUD and State Wastewater and Drinking Water Programs to develop coordinated strategies to advance resiliency in communities and at drinking water and wastewater utilities. HUD, EPA, RIDEM, and Rhode Island Department of Health managers will meet to share information on priority projects, and identify collaborative efforts in emergency preparedness and resiliency, including at drink water and wastewater utilities. Closed Press, Providence, RI.

On September 27, Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, is scheduled to speak on Toxic Substances Control Act Reform at the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication 2013 Fall Meeting. Open Press, Arlington, VA.

On September 27, Acting Region 4 Administrator Stan Meiburg is scheduled to participate on a panel at the Southeastern Conference for Public Administration. The theme of the panel is

“Green Horizons: Choosing an Effective Future for Environmental Policy.” Closed Press, Charlotte, NC.

On September 27 - 28, Jeff Corbin, Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Chesapeake Bay and Anacostia River, is scheduled to attend and speak at the annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum, sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. The forum brings together representatives from local watershed organizations and local governments to learn the latest restoration science and direction for restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Closed Press, Shepherdstown, W. VA.

During the week of September 23, Deputy Administrator Perciasepe is scheduled to participate in the following events:

- On September 25, Deputy Administrator Perciasepe is scheduled to visit the Region 10 office to meet with senior management and staff. Closed Press, Seattle, WA.
- On September 26, Deputy Administrator Perciasepe is scheduled to visit the Region 9 office to meet with senior management and staff. Region 9 Administrator Jared Blumenfeld will also participate in this event. Closed Press, San Francisco, CA.
- On September 26, Deputy Administrator Perciasepe is scheduled to participate in a media event with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control regarding their Safer Consumer Products initiative. Region 9 Administrator Jared Blumenfeld will also participate in this event. Open Press, Richmond, CA.
- On September 27, Deputy Administrator Perciasepe is scheduled to give opening remarks at the LAUNCH Systems Challenge, a collaborative project between NASA, Nike, USAID, and the Department of State that focuses on finding innovative solutions to sustainability challenges. Region 9 Administrator Jared Blumenfeld will also participate in this event. Open Press, Pasadena, CA.
- On September 27, Deputy Administrator is scheduled to deliver remarks at the University of California-Irvine to university officials. These remarks are expected to focus on food waste and climate change. Open Press, Irvine, CA.
- On September 28, Deputy Administrator Perciasepe is expected to participate in the National Environmental Education Foundation’s event celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Public Lands Day. The Deputy Administrator will be joined by Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and will deliver remarks on the importance of protecting public lands. Open Press, Atlanta, GA.

Items of Note

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